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DEA Quarterly Intelligence Trends

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Quarterly Intelligence Trends

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Contents

Cannabis Review—1984	2
Cocaine Review—1984	8
Dangerous Drugs Review—1984	15
Opiates Review—1984	20
Domestic Drug Prices	30

The Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Quarterly Intelligence Trends (QIT), a strategic intelligence publication, provides a comprehensive assessment of illicit drug production, trafficking, and use. Strategic intelligence is an end product of the intelligence process. In the context of Federal drug law enforcement, it is a blending of facts and analysis to produce informed judgments on major aspects of world-wide drug situations. Strategic intelligence differs from operational and tactical intelligence in that it addresses the larger issues with which policy makers and managers are concerned, rather than the case support required by the criminal investigator in the field. Because of the broad needs served by strategic intelligence, its data base must encompass many diverse types of information, both enforcement and non-enforcement, government and non-government. Within the DEA, however, the most important source is the investigative reporting from DEA domestic field and overseas country offices.

The QIT provides the Federal Government and state and local law enforcement organizations with information essential to the formulation of drug control programs within the United States and abroad. The QIT provides DEA a finished intelligence reference to assist in the development of the U.S. Federal Strategy on drug use and control.

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Cannabis Review 1984



An estimated 7,280 to 10,760 metric tons of marijuana were available for consumption in the United States in 1984. Colombia, Mexico, and Jamaica were the primary foreign sources of supply. Domestic growers produced about 1,700 metric tons of sinsemilla and commercial grade marijuana, approximately 12 percent of the total supply. Major producing states included Hawaii, Oklahoma, Tennessee, California, and Kentucky. While marijuana smokers still showed a decided preference for more potent cannabis products, especially sinsemilla, the considerably greater cost curtailed use. Domestic commercial grade marijuana sold for \$45 to \$75 an ounce, while an ounce of sinsemilla sold for \$120 to \$180.

Marijuana use abated in all age categories, with the greatest decline in the 35 and older group. Decreased usage was also noted among students according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse Survey of High School Seniors. Of those responding to the questionnaire, 40 percent indicated that they had used marijuana. The number of students smoking marijuana has been declining steadily and gradually since 1979. In that year, 51 percent of those surveyed acknowledged use of this drug.

Marijuana-related hospital emergencies totaled 3,397 in 1984, a slight decrease from the 3,752 incidents reported in 1983. Marijuana-drug combinations accounted for 77 percent of all marijuana-related emergency room episodes in 1983. In 1984, the percentage rose to about 81 percent. Alcohol, phencyclidine (PCP), cocaine, and diazepam were the primary drugs used with marijuana. Increases in marijuana poly-drug combinations were reported in Philadelphia, Chicago, and New Orleans. Use also remained widespread in New York and Los Angeles.

Domestic

Planting Sites

Most cultivation took place in rural areas where natural vegetation or legitimate crops gave some degree of concealment and where law enforcement resources were thinly spread. Other attempts at con-

cealment included placing plants amid corn rows and trees or alongside riverbeds and creeks. Cannabis was also grown in areas cleared by logging crews and sometimes trees were deliberately burned off to leave small fields. These cultivation sites were thus hidden by the surrounding trees. Cannabis growers, with increasing frequency, planted their crops in national forests, since much of this land is nearly inaccessible and seldom patrolled. They also used private land without the owner's consent. Marijuana growers used concealed steel jaw traps, guard dogs, and armed guards to protect their fields. These protective measures were intended not only to hinder the theft of crops, but also to prevent law enforcement personnel and the unwitting trespasser from entering their plots.

With the success of aerial identification and eradication, the size of marijuana plots has decreased. State officials estimate that 80 to 95 percent of these stands now have a total of only a hundred or fewer plants. Besides reducing the size of their plots, growers are moving their operations into greenhouses, barns, underground caves, chicken coops, and other structures to conceal their operations. In these circumstances, local climatic conditions can be ignored and the number of harvests can be increased.

Distribution

Traditional organized crime was not apparently involved in domestic marijuana production, but small, local, highly developed distribution structures existed throughout the United States. Most large-scale marijuana producers sold their product to wholesale buyers, while smaller operators attempted to develop their own distribution systems. When the grower had no established buyers, he tried to find them through contacts in the drug culture, social encounters, or by word of mouth.

Financing

Small-scale growers were responsible for a large portion of the nation's marijuana production and all

kinds of people were involved: seasoned drug traffickers, business executives, economically hard-pressed farmers, the jobless, and senior citizens. Most growers financed their operations from previous marijuana sales or borrowed money from other traffickers. Some also received funds by supplying lights, seedlings, fertilizer, and expertise in return for a percentage of the profit. In some instances, investors provided money and/or land to be used for cultivation. Growers also pooled funds and shared costs, labor, and profits.

Eradication

The DEA Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program was established to ensure a coordinated effort between Federal, state, and local agencies involving the eradication of domestically cultivated cannabis. DEA's role in this cooperative venture was to encourage state and local eradication efforts and to contribute, within limitations, funding, training, equipment, investigative, and aircraft resources to support such efforts. In 1984, the program was expanded to include 48 states.

The program resulted in the sightings of 21,075 plots, including 2,553 plots on U.S. Forest Service lands. Of the total sighted, 91 percent were eradicated, including 64 percent of those plots sighted on Forest Service lands. A total of 12,981,210 plants on 19,199 plots was destroyed. Over nine million of the eradicated plants were fiber-type cannabis or 'ditchweed' which grows wild in many states. This low potency variety can be used to cut higher grade marijuana. Twenty-seven percent of the cultivated plants eradicated were sinsemilla.

The program resulted in the arrest of 4,941 individuals and the seizure of 1,424 weapons. Overt violence and the use of passive booby trap devices were widely encountered. Incidents were reported in over 25 states. In previous years, violence was confined primarily to California, Oregon, and Washington. In 1984, shootings, physical injuries, and assaults were reported in 11 southeastern states. Deaths from violence believed associated with cannabis cultivation occurred in both east and west coast states.

1984 Cannabis Seizure Statistics

Air

- Marijuana continued to be the drug most frequently seized from general aviation aircraft. Seizures totaled 118,631 kilograms.
- Approximately 12,285 kilograms were seized at commercial airports in 1984, compared to 12,788 kilograms in 1983.
- There were 3,173 cannabis seizure incidents at domestic commercial airports involving traffickers from 59 countries. Sixty-two percent of those arrested were Americans.
- Jamaica was the most frequent point of origin/embarkation. The greatest number of seizures occurred in New York and Florida airports.
- The most frequently used concealment methods were luggage and body carry.

Vessel

- A total of 1,459,352 kilograms of marijuana were seized from vessels.
- An additional 81,219 kilograms were recovered as floating bales/debris.
- Approximately 80 percent of all marijuana seized from vessels was believed to be destined for Florida ports.

- Most of the seized marijuana was removed from mid-size fishing vessels and small cargo ships. Pleasure craft also carried small loads.
- Sophisticated false compartments continued to be used frequently on private vessels to conceal marijuana shipments.

Overland

- About 70 metric tons of marijuana were seized at U.S. southwestern border ports of entry. These seizures were concentrated in Texas, California, and Arizona.
- Over half the marijuana seizures occurred at Arizona ports of entry and border patrol checkpoints. Forty-seven percent of the Arizona seizures were made at Tucson.
- Thirty percent of the marijuana seizures in California took place in San Ysidro.
- Twenty-eight percent of the Texas border seizures occurred at El Paso.
- Private automobiles and pickup trucks were most frequently used to smuggle drugs across the southwestern border of the United States. The most commonly used concealment methods were false gas tanks, false camper roofs, false walls, and inside and behind vehicle seats.

Foreign

Colombia

Colombia remained the primary source of marijuana for the United States and accounted for 42 percent of the total U.S. supply in 1984. Between 4,100 and 7,500 metric tons of Colombian marijuana were available for export to the United States in 1984, compared to 6,900 to 9,300 metric tons in 1983. This decrease was mainly due to increased seizures and eradication in Colombia. Also, cultivation in and trafficking from other source countries increased.

In 1984, approximately 10,000 to 13,000 hectares, primarily in northeastern Colombia, were used for cannabis cultivation. There were also reports of increased cultivation in the Gulf of Uraba region, near Panama. Most marijuana was harvested during the months of September, October, and November. A smaller crop was produced from March through May because of generally dry weather. There were some changes in traditional growing patterns in 1984. Although peak harvesting is from September through November, some planting was staggered which allowed harvesting to take place in August and December as well.

About 1,000 hectares of cannabis were destroyed

Cannabis Products

Although cannabis products have been given numerous names (marijuana, hashish, Thai sticks, sinsemilla), they are all made from the annual herbaceous plant called *Cannabis sativa*. *Cannabis sativa* secretes a clear, sticky resin which contains most of the psychoactive substance in cannabis, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). The principal difference between these cannabis products is the amount of resin, or THC, they contain.

Sinsemilla

The cultivation of sinsemilla is an ancient practice. A first century Chinese medical journal noted that the female cannabis plant contained more medicinal properties than the male. Sinsemilla, which in Spanish means 'without seed,' is produced from unfertilized female cannabis plants in a growing area where all male cannabis plants are removed prior to pollination. Female sinsemilla plants allowed to grow in this fashion produce more flowers and resin in an attempt to attract male pollen. It is the resin and flowers which contain THC. The THC content of sinsemilla averages 7 percent. The most valuable portion of the sinsemilla plant is its flowering buds, and, in many cases, only the buds are harvested and marketed.

Commercial Grade

This is the most commonly sold type of marijuana and it is produced from male and fertilized female cannabis plants which have been cultivated in the same area. Generally, the whole plant is harvested, stripped of its stems, and marketed. The THC content of commercial grade marijuana averages 5 percent.

Thai Sticks

Thai sticks are made from the flowering tops of female Thai cannabis plants and are generally free

from large leaves, excessive stalk material, and seeds. These tops are bound around a central bamboo sliver by a thin vegetable fiber. The color of the cannabis varies from a deep olive green to a rich khaki. This color variation is believed to be a consequence of the degree or manner of drying the tops. The THC content of Thai sticks averages 9 percent.

Hashish

Hashish is derived from the resin produced by both male and female flowering parts of the cannabis plant. The raw resin from the flowering tops is extracted and either kneaded into sticks, cakes, or cubes for eating, or reduced to powder for smoking. Common ways of smoking hashish are: combining it with tobacco in a cigarette or using a hookah (smoking pipe), a method prevalent in the Middle East. The THC content of hashish ranges from 1 to 15 percent, with an average of 5 percent.

Hashish Oil

Hashish oil is extracted from both the plant material and the concentrated resin by solvents such as alcohol. The resulting extracts and distillates, high in THC, are used to enhance the effects of marijuana cigarettes. The concentration of THC in hashish oil will vary from 20 to 80 percent.

Indian Hemp

This plant, which grows wild in many areas of the country, especially the Midwest, can usually be found in fields, ditch banks, and along fence rows and railroad tracks. It can grow in many types of soil and reproduces itself each year by its own seed from the previous year's crop. Because its THC content averages around 0.14 percent, it has little marketable value. Traffickers, however, sometimes use it to cut higher grade marijuana.

manually in 1983. An aerial herbicidal eradication campaign in 1984, however, resulted in the destruction of 3,400 hectares. If the cannabis had been harvested, three to four thousand metric tons would have been added to Colombia's total production. The campaign reportedly caused some farmers to plant and harvest crops on a continuous basis to minimize loss, while others harvested their crops early. An additional 3,300 metric tons of bulk, processed marijuana was seized and destroyed. Traffickers encountered difficulties in storing, transporting, and marketing their marijuana within Colombia because of eradication and interdiction programs.

While vessels continued to be the most common method of smuggling marijuana, general aviation aircraft were used for an estimated 10 to 20 percent of the volume shipped. The principal northeast cultivation zone had at least 196 airstrips, and about three-quarters of them were clandestine. To avoid detection, air traffickers favored entry at dawn or dusk. 'Turn around' time, including refueling and loading, generally took about 30 minutes. The average load was about one metric ton.

Most cannabis consumed in Europe comes from either Africa or the Middle East, but in 1984, European officials seized about seven metric tons of Colombian marijuana in two separate incidents. Officials in Amsterdam seized almost five metric tons of marijuana which had been transported on a freighter from Cartagena, Colombia. French

authorities confiscated over two metric tons of Colombian marijuana from a vessel docked at Toulon. These shipments are possible indications of Colombian traffickers' attempts to expand their operations beyond their traditional areas of activity.

Sources of Marijuana Available for Use in the United States—1984

Country	Estimated Quantity (metric tons)	Estimated Percentage of Total Supply*
Colombia	4,100- 7,500	42
Mexico	2,500- 3,000	20
Jamaica	1,500- 2,250	14
Belize	1,100	8
Domestic	1,700	12
Other	500	4
Total Available	11,400-16,050	100
less: U.S. seizures, seizures in transit, and losses	-4,120- 5,290	
Net Marijuana Available	7,280-10,760	

* Percentages reflect the midpoint of the quantity ranges.

Marijuana Smuggling Routes from Latin America and the Caribbean to the United States



Mexico

The supply of Mexican marijuana in the United States has increased steadily since 1982, when it accounted for only 6 percent of the total. The following year this figure rose to 9 percent. In 1984, 20 percent of the U.S. supply was from Mexico. With this percentage, it became the second largest foreign source of marijuana.

Net production available for export to the United States rose from approximately 750 metric tons in 1982 to 1,300 metric tons in 1983. In 1984, net production ranged from 2,500 to 3,000 metric tons. The increase was partly due to sophisticated, plantation-style agricultural practices such as fertilization, mechanized cultivation, and the use of irrigation systems in remote arid regions.

An eradication campaign, targeting the country's fall cannabis and opium poppy crop, resulted in the seizure of an estimated 2,400 metric tons of marijuana in November 1984. This was the largest seizure of marijuana recorded worldwide. The marijuana, in various stages of cultivation and processing, was found in several locations in the State of Chihuahua. More than six cultivation sites, encompassing over 600 hectares, were raided. Several thousand laborers, recruited in other Mexican states, allegedly believed they were hired to harvest fruit. The starved and diseased laborers, guarded by heavily armed men, were forced to work without pay. Because of the size and sophistication of the operation, it seems likely that this was a joint venture of several trafficking groups. Combining resources would considerably increase production and profits and lower operating costs and risks.

Seizures of Mexican marijuana along the U.S./Mexico border also increased in 1984 according to the U.S. Customs Service. About 28 metric tons of marijuana were seized at ports of entry in 1983, compared to slightly more than 70 tons seized in 1984.

Marijuana was smuggled from Mexico to the United States primarily by land transport. Airstrips on both sides of the border suggest that substantial quantities were also smuggled by general aviation aircraft. Vessels were used to bring limited amounts of marijuana into the United States, but primarily from lesser, southern growing zones such as Oaxaca and Guerrero. Rafts and small boats occasionally carried contraband across the Rio Grande.

Jamaica

Approximately 14 percent of the 1984 U.S. marijuana supply came from Jamaica. Out of an estimated total production of 2,500 metric tons, about 1,500 to 2,250 metric tons were available for export to the United States. In 1984, over 3,000 hectares were used for cannabis cultivation. The crops are usually planted in January and June, and peak harvesting takes place in May and October. Because

of the climate, some cultivation and harvesting occur year-round.

The three cannabis products exported from Jamaica were sinsemilla, commercial grade marijuana, and hashish oil. Sinsemilla production increased in 1984, and that product was primarily grown near Negril, a smuggling area along Jamaica's west coast. Commercial grade cannabis was cultivated throughout the island. The most extensive plantings were believed to be in the St. Elizabeth, St. Ann, and St. Thomas Parishes. Jamaica, the only significant source of hashish oil in this hemisphere, exported only small quantities, and limited amounts were consumed locally.

The Jamaican Government increased pressure on drug traffickers in 1984 by passing legislation which required the registration of airstrips on private land and permitted government forces to destroy unregistered ones. Aircraft had used many such strips to smuggle marijuana out of the country. Also, punitive tax measures targeted at narcotics traffickers were announced. The Jamaican Constabulary Force expanded its manual eradication program and destroyed approximately 390 hectares of cannabis.

Most marijuana was smuggled to the United States on general aviation aircraft which had access to some 73 airstrips, about half of which were clandestine. Multi-ton quantities were also transported by small motherships, and there was some use of pleasure craft. There were frequent seizures in the United States of small amounts of Jamaican marijuana from commercial air passengers and from cargo vessels.

Belize

Belize became an increasingly important marijuana source in 1984 and accounted for 8 percent of the U.S. supply. Production was approximately 1,300 metric tons, and 1,100 metric tons were available for export to the United States. The other 200 metric tons were either seized, consumed locally, eradicated, or shipped to other countries. In 1983, aerial herbicidal eradication destroyed significant quantities of cannabis and left only 450 metric tons available for shipment to the United States. Only limited amounts were destroyed manually in 1984.

While cannabis was primarily cultivated in northern Belize, some was grown in the southern part of the country. The majority of the fields were in isolated, thinly populated areas in the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts in the north, the Toledo District in the south, and along the Belize/Guatemala border.

Although marijuana consumption in Belize increased in 1984, most of the crop was shipped to the United States. Marijuana was generally smuggled on twin-engine aircraft which had access to about 50 uncontrolled airstrips scattered throughout the country. Land transport to the United

States was used to some extent and limited amounts were smuggled by pleasure craft.

Other Source Countries

While Colombia, Mexico, and Jamaica were the primary foreign sources of marijuana in 1984, cannabis was also smuggled into the United States from other countries. Thailand, Indonesia, Nigeria, Costa Rica, Panama, and Venezuela supplied about 4 percent of the marijuana available in the United States in 1984.

Cannabis cultivation in Thailand reportedly expanded in 1984 and it was an important cash crop in most of Thailand's economically distressed northeastern provinces. The Royal Thai Government launched a large-scale eradication campaign in 1984 and destroyed over 3,000 metric tons of marijuana. In 1984, 12.5 metric tons of Thai marijuana were seized in Seattle and 25.5 metric tons, destined for the United States, were confiscated in Thailand.

Indonesia and Nigeria continued to supply limited amounts of marijuana to the United States. Costa Rica, Panama, and Venezuela made concerted efforts to control production through manual eradication and increased investigative efforts.

Besides Colombia, Brazil was a fairly significant marijuana producer in South America. The Brazilian Government destroyed about 3,000 metric tons of marijuana in 1984, nearly tripling 1983 eradication totals. Most of the country's production was believed to be consumed locally. No seizures of Brazilian marijuana were reported in the United States during 1984.

Hashish Production and Trafficking

Most hashish available in the United States during 1984 originated in Southwest Asia. Approximately 60 to 65 percent of the U.S. supply came from Pakistan and Afghanistan, 25 to 30 percent from Lebanon, 5 percent from Morocco, and the remaining 5 percent from Nepal and India.

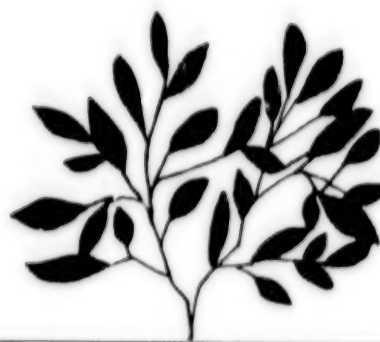
The quantity of Southwest Asian hashish smuggled into this country changed little in 1984, but Lebanese supplies may have decreased slightly. Political unrest hampered the movement of hashish out of the Bekaa Valley, the primary production area, for shipment abroad. Consequently, stocks of hashish and hashish oil accumulated, prices paid to farmers dropped, and shipping costs increased. In spite of the country's difficulties, Lebanese hashish continued to dominate the European market in 1984. It also satisfied most of the demand from Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries. While vessels were used to transport Lebanese hashish to Europe, some was smuggled overland through Syria and Turkey.

Hashish seizures in the United States totaled 15 metric tons in 1984, compared to 14 metric tons in 1983. Most of these seizures took place in Oakland,

Los Angeles, and San Francisco, California. Hashish seizures in 1984 indicated that some traffickers were using alternative routes to North America to avoid increased interdiction activity in the Mediterranean Sea. Multi-ton shipments, seized during late 1984, were routed from Pakistan or India through Southeast Asia and then to the U.S. west coast. Both air and maritime transport were used. The hashish was allegedly destined for the west coast, the North-eastern United States, and Canada.

Although overall marijuana use in the United States appeared to have stabilized during 1984, spot shortages of sinsemilla may have heightened the demand for hashish. Reports of increased hashish trafficking activity indicate that more hashish may have been smuggled into the United States in 1984. Much of the hashish confiscated in this country, however, was destined for Canada where its use is more common.

Cocaine Review 1984



The use and availability of cocaine hydrochloride (HCl) remained widespread in 1984, and there were significant increases in cocaine-related hospital emergencies and deaths over 1983 levels. Increases were attributed primarily to more dangerous forms of use, such as 'freebasing,' injection, and combining cocaine with other drugs. Some U.S. cities reported problems relative to coca paste and cocaine base smoking in tobacco and marijuana cigarettes in 1984. Increased drug law enforcement pressures in Colombia and continued adjustments to an oversupply of coca products were key to the general expansion of the international cocaine traffic. Drug law enforcement efforts in both the United States and South American source countries raised the cost of traffickers' operations, causing the prices of coca products and essential chemicals to rise in Latin America, during 1984. Wholesale prices for cocaine HCl in a few key U.S. cities also rose during the second half of the year. Although the principal coca cultivation countries continued to be Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia, there were significant cultivations in Ecuador and Brazil. Cocaine conversion activity continued to spread outside of Colombia to Panama, Venezuela, Mexico, Canada, and the United States. International and interregional cooperation in coca control increased. Cocaine trafficking in 1984 was characterized by continued diversification of smuggling methods, increased cocaine conversion laboratory activity in the United States, and continued expansion of cocaine distribution into Canada and Western Europe.

Coca Cultivation and Cocaine Production

The most significant factor in international cocaine trafficking during 1984 was the expansion of all phases of the traffic including cultivation, processing, and distribution. Not only was illicit coca cultivation expanding in the source countries of Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia, but it was spreading into other countries, such as Ecuador and Brazil. As illicit coca cultivation increased, cocaine refineries and transshipment centers continued to emerge throughout the hemisphere. Overall expansion of

coca cultivation and cocaine traffic was the result of the adjustments to overproduction in the traditional source countries during the last three or four years. Each country has attempted to vertically integrate all phases of production, i.e., cultivation, processing, and distribution. An additional factor was intensified law enforcement activity in Colombia in 1984 which caused Colombian traffickers to expand geographically their activities to other countries, i.e., Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Brazil.

Bolivia and Peru continued to be the principal source countries for the cultivation of coca; Peru had the largest area under cultivation. Colombia remained the site of the third largest coca cultivation. Although the overall size of Colombia's crop, estimated at 15,000 to 17,000 hectares, appeared to have been static over the last two years, cultivation was reported more widely throughout the country in 1984.

Two coca eradication efforts in Brazil during 1984 and increased cocaine HCl seizures there revealed that the cocaine trafficking community has become firmly established in all aspects of production from cultivation, through processing, to international distribution. Significant cultivation in Ecuador was confirmed for the first time in 1984 and approximately 100 hectares near the Ecuador/Colombia border were eradicated. While the area under cultivation in Ecuador was not considered large-scale by Peruvian or Bolivian standards, eradication campaigns conducted in late 1984 revealed mature, well-tended fields. Some of them contained bushes the size of small trees. Small coca plots were reportedly destroyed in Panama near the Panama/Colombia border, and there were unconfirmed reports of coca cultivation in Venezuela. Most reporting suggested that Colombian traffickers were in one way or another sponsoring these newer efforts in neighboring countries, much as they have in the Amazon area of Brazil over the past three years.

While Colombia remained the principal cocaine HCl processing and distribution center to the United States in 1984, there was increasing evidence that Bolivian traffickers were becoming more self-sufficient. They established processing facilities

Cocaine Smuggling Routes from Latin America to the United States and Europe



capable of producing 100-kilogram quantities of cocaine HCl in the Santa Cruz and Beni regions, importing essential chemicals from Brazil or other producing countries through Argentina and Paraguay. Similarly, there were reports of added processing facilities in northern Argentina and Brazil during 1984. Most of the cocaine HCl produced in these two countries, along with Bolivian-produced cocaine, appeared destined for a rapidly growing European market, as well as for the United States.

Significant Developments

Colombian cocaine traffickers experienced a number of setbacks throughout 1984 because of successful U.S. and Colombian drug law enforcement and diplomatic initiatives in the control of essential chemicals. As a direct result of U.S./Colombian cooperation, three major cocaine conversion sites were discovered and totally immobilized by Colombian authorities. The first occurred in mid-March 1984, at Tranquilandia, located in the southern Department of Cauca. Approximately 10 metric tons of cocaine HCl and base, and 10,000 barrels of chemicals were seized. The second took place in the eastern Department of Vichada in mid-May 1984 and 3.7 metric tons of cocaine products were seized. Colombian traffickers also experienced another major loss of a large-scale processing complex in the southeastern Department of Vaupes. Colombian authorities seized 16 metric tons of cocaine base and cocaine HCl in 1984, compared to 2.5 metric tons in 1983. More cocaine was seized in Colombia during 1984 than during any previous year.

The successful immobilization of the Tranquilandia cocaine laboratory complex had far-reaching repercussions on Colombian cocaine traffic. Intensified Colombian drug law enforcement operations since early 1984 may have caused some cocaine traffickers to take refuge in neighboring countries and to relocate their cocaine conversion operations. These attempts were frustrated with the discovery and subsequent immobilization of cocaine conversion laboratories in Panama in May and Venezuela in November. Large stockpiles of essential chemicals were also seized and destroyed in both countries. Drug-related violence and a growing drug use problem in the country have created a greater government awareness of the danger to society caused by drug trafficking, which led to extradition of four Colombian nationals to the United States in early January 1985. The threat of extradition has likewise been disruptive to traffickers, causing some to remain mobile and in hiding.

Prices for coca products and essential chemicals began to rise in 1984, reversing the downward trend in recent years. Drug law enforcement efforts in Bolivia caused the kilogram prices of cocaine HCl to rise from \$2,500 for the first six months of 1984 to \$8,000 by year-end. Although price information for Peru was sketchy, some reports indicated that

coca prices may have tripled during 1984. Intensive drug law enforcement and political pressures may have been responsible for increased prices for coca products in Colombia last year. Cocaine HCl prices doubled from about \$4,000 to \$7,000 per kilogram at the beginning of the year to around \$8,000 to \$10,000 by year-end. Restrictions on the importation of essential chemicals also caused the price for a 55-gallon drum of ether to go from \$4,200 at the beginning of the year to around \$7,000 at the end of 1984.

Not only were major cocaine processing complexes seized in Colombia, Panama, and Venezuela during 1984, but seizures took place elsewhere in the hemisphere as well. Three cocaine HCl laboratories were seized in Mexico, one in Canada, and twenty-one in the United States. Cocaine conversion laboratories had been set up in these locations primarily because of the high cost and scarcity of ether which resulted from the Colombian Government's import restrictions. The serious cost squeeze on many Colombian traffickers encouraged some to move cocaine processing activity closer to sources of essential chemicals and to the point of sale.

The Colombian Government has conducted manual eradication of coca plants for several years and decided to begin herbicidal eradication in 1984, but was constrained by the lack of a safe and effective herbicide. The United States and Colombia are working together to develop an environmentally safe herbicide. The Colombian Government is strongly committed to a comprehensive eradication program because of a serious drug abuse problem centered on the smoking of coca paste ('bazuco') in Colombia.

During 1984, Paraguay emerged as a possible location for cocaine production as well as a transit point for cocaine HCl destined for Europe. There were large shipments of ether and acetone to Paraguay which were considered excessive for that country's legitimate requirements. The first shipment was seized in Santos, Brazil, before it reached Paraguay, and the second was seized as the shipment entered Paraguay. While significant quantities of cocaine HCl were not believed to have been produced in Paraguay, the country's location and infrastructure facilitate the transit and processing of cocaine.

Traffickers in Paraguay have easy access to processed cocaine as well as coca paste and cocaine base from Bolivia. These coca products are usually shipped from Bolivia to Paraguay either by truck or small aircraft. Clandestine airstrips have been found throughout the country. Cocaine is transshipped through Paraguay via Brazil and Argentina to the United States and Europe. Concerted anti-narcotics law enforcement pressure in Bolivia, particularly the military occupation of the Chapare region in August 1984, may have caused some traffickers to relocate their operations to Paraguay.

There was increased international cooperation in coca control during 1984, specifically in the control

of essential chemicals. In addition to curtailment of ether shipments to Central and South American countries by U.S. chemical manufacturers and distributors, DEA has been successful in gaining the cooperation of the principal foreign suppliers. Sweden, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), Italy, Brazil, and Mexico have all agreed to cooperate in the control of sales of essential chemicals to Central and South America. Many other European and Latin American countries also are cooperating in this program, and consequently cocaine traffickers are having difficulty finding sufficient quantities of ether for their laboratories. The high level of ether imports to Panama during the first six months of 1984 increased the Panamanian Government's awareness of that country's potential role as a conduit for essential chemicals for cocaine conversion laboratories in Latin America. In June alone, the Panamanian Government seized quantities of ether and acetone which could have been used to produce an estimated 106 metric tons of cocaine HCl. As a result of these measures, cocaine traffickers have tried to find safer havens for essential chemical shipments.

Increased drug law enforcement in Colombia since early 1984 was probably the catalyst for greater cooperation among Latin American countries. When many Colombian traffickers fled their country to avoid arrest, they sought refuge in Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Panama, and Venezuela. In May 1984, Colombian officials delivered a list of Colombian drug traffickers to the Brazilian Government in an effort to prevent their movement through Brazil's ports of entry. Later in the summer, Colombian and Brazilian officials met to establish joint cooperation mechanisms to share intelligence, primarily in the Amazon area. Panama Defense Force and Colombian Army officials also met during the summer of 1984 to coordinate coca eradication operations in their border region. In August 1984, the governments of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, Nicaragua, and Venezuela signed the Declaration of Quito against illegal drug trafficking. In November 1984, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States instructed the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council to organize a specialized conference, primarily on cocaine trafficking. This conference, planned for early 1986, will give full consideration to all aspects of the problem.

Trafficking Patterns

Cocaine trafficking patterns in 1984 showed a similar diversification in the types of conveyances used to transport cocaine to the United States as in 1983, but were characterized by increased cocaine conversion laboratory activity, especially in south Florida. There was continued expansion of cocaine distribution in Canada and Western Europe.

Based on seizure data, approximately 62 percent of the cocaine reaching the United States from

foreign sources in 1984 was shipped by general aviation aircraft, about the same as in 1983. As in the past, there was considerable diversification of transportation modes: commercial air accounted for 18 percent; non-commercial vessels, for 11 percent; commercial vessels, for 8 percent; and land transportation, for the remaining 1 percent. Florida was the principal point of entry for cocaine shipments from 94 percent of all conveyances according to information reported to the El Paso Intelligence Center. Other points of entry were also noted during 1984. Although 60 percent of cocaine seizures from general aviation aircraft were made in Florida, 17 percent took place in Arizona, and 12 percent in Texas. Most of the cocaine smuggled via commercial air was seized at the Miami International Airport; however, some seizures were reported at airports in New York and Los Angeles. Likewise, most of the cocaine seized from commercial vessels was in Florida, but some was seized along the Texas gulf coast (Houston, Corpus Christi, and Galveston). Eighty-five percent of the cocaine entering the United States by land came through Texas. Although the Southeastern United States continues to be the primary area for cocaine trafficking activity, intelligence indicates that other areas, such as Houston and Los Angeles, are becoming more active.

Smugglers using general aviation aircraft to transport cocaine into the United States often altered aircraft and varied their routes to reduce the risk of interception by law enforcement authorities. Aircraft are commonly fitted with extra fuel tanks and inflatable/collapsible tanks. Such alterations enable aircraft to fly non-stop between Colombia and the southern part of the United States. When smugglers fly from the United States to Colombia, the fuel contained in the bladders is used. Upon arrival at their Colombian destination, the bladders are discarded and the cargo is taken on in the space previously occupied by the fuel bladders. The purpose of taking sufficient fuel for a complete round trip is that the fuel available to smugglers in Colombia often contains impurities and must be filtered prior to use. This filtering procedure apparently takes more time than pilots are willing to allow. Most general aviation aircraft used in cocaine smuggling ventures continue to be land-based. There is some smuggling by amphibious aircraft, particularly in the Caribbean, but their use is limited because such aircraft are considered too conspicuous for use at inland airstrips. Cocaine accounts for a relatively small percent of the drugs being airdropped, and The Bahamas continues to be the most active area for airdrops.

Pilots are generally mercenaries recruited by traffickers, with the exception of those who are employed full-time by large trafficking organizations or who have a vested interest in the entire smuggling operation. They frequently are ex-military pilots, aviators who have flown for commercial airlines, or those holding private licenses. They also may include individuals flying without licenses.

In 1984, there was a continued increase in seizures of cocaine conversion laboratories in the United States. Although the number of such laboratories seized in this country has risen steadily since 1980, the number of cocaine laboratory seizures increased last year, from 11 in 1983 to 21 in 1984. Eighteen of the laboratories, moreover, were located in south Florida; the remaining three were in New York (2) and Kentucky (1).

It was not surprising to find a concentration of cocaine conversion laboratories in south Florida during 1984:

- Miami continues to be the hub of cocaine smuggling, wholesale distribution, and financing in the United States.
- The geographic proximity of south Florida to Colombia makes it attractive to traffickers smuggling both forms of the coca product.
- The 1:1 conversion ratio of cocaine base to cocaine HCl makes the risks associated with smuggling both forms essentially the same.
- By moving conversion operations to south Florida, Colombian traffickers avoid having to smuggle in two directions: essential chemicals into Colombia and processed cocaine HCl out.

Local law enforcement officials say that cocaine laboratories may be flourishing in south Florida because the chemicals used in the conversion process are more readily available than in Colombia.

Cocaine seizures in Western Europe continued at high levels, closely approximating the 900 kilograms seized in 1983. Over 140 kilograms were seized in the FRG, which is experiencing a serious cocaine abuse problem. A single seizure from a Colombian ship at the Port of Hamburg totaled 48 kilograms. Commercial air traffic from South America to Frankfurt International Airport also plays an important role in the cocaine availability in the FRG. In addition to Colombians, other South and Central American nationals have been apprehended while attempting to smuggle cocaine into the country.

Traffickers use nearly all Western European countries to smuggle cocaine into the continent. In addition to the FRG, the following countries reported seizures totaling more than 100 kilograms during 1984: Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, France, and Belgium.

Although commercial air couriers were the most commonly used means of smuggling small amounts of cocaine to Europe, intelligence and seizure information pointed to the increased use of commercial air and vessel cargo to transport significant quantities of cocaine to the continent. Vessels of the Gran Colombiana Line called at many European ports in 1984. They have been heavily involved in shipping cocaine to the United States for years. Although no cocaine seizures have been made from Gran Colombiana Line vessels in Europe, their potential use for smuggling exists.

The cocaine smuggled to Europe from South American source countries is frequently transported to other South American countries before being

smuggled to Europe. Major transit points are: Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brazil; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Montevideo, Uruguay; and Asuncion, Paraguay. Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and Lima, Peru, are frequently mentioned as points of embarkation for cocaine shipments to Europe. Seizures and intelligence indicate that Madrid, Spain; Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Frankfurt, FRG; Lisbon, Portugal; and Copenhagen, Denmark, are common ports of entry in Europe for cocaine shipments. From these cities, the cocaine is distributed to other European countries.

In 1984, arrests of Italians in Italy and South America indicated that traditional Italian heroin traffickers were attempting to increase their involvement in cocaine trafficking. This traffic has been facilitated through the establishment of import/export companies. In the past, Italians have had strong narcotics ties to traffickers in some South American countries, particularly Paraguay and Bolivia.

Dutch officials seized 32 kilograms of cocaine base in November 1984. The drugs were confiscated at the Port of Amsterdam from a freighter originating in Cartagena, Colombia. In June, German authorities seized 11 kilograms of cocaine base which had been obtained in Amsterdam. Although a cocaine conversion laboratory was seized in Germany in 1979 and one in The Netherlands in the early 1980's, none were seized in 1984. European authorities anticipate that more cocaine conversion facilities will be uncovered.

During 1984, customs officials in Europe were informed that Latin American drug traffickers were concealing narcotics in shipments of animals. This warning followed the discovery of cocaine hidden in the carcasses of parrots and crocodiles which were smuggled into Europe. Crocodile skins were covered with a white powder described as a preservative, but it was actually cocaine which was vacuumed off the skins at their European destination. Another tactic used by traffickers has been to kill a number of birds in a live consignment and then to stuff them with cocaine. Since a percentage of birds are normally expected to die while in transit, customs officials are not suspicious. Officials of a Swiss-based animal protection organization have noted a significant increase in illegal exports of birds and other animal products from Bolivia and Paraguay. They claim that much of this trade is financed by Latin American-based drug traffickers.

The cocaine situation in the Pacific Basin remained about the same as in 1983. Eight kilograms of cocaine HCl were seized in Australia in three separate incidents last year, the same amount seized in two incidents in 1983. The cocaine had originated in the United States and was smuggled into Australia via New Zealand. Several grams of cocaine were also seized in South Korea during 1984.

Cocaine Abuse and Availability in the United States

According to all indicators, cocaine use within the United States continued to be widespread in 1984. In its December 1984 report, the Community Epidemiology Work Group, an organization sponsored by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, concluded that cocaine availability and use in the United States have not diminished even though many areas of the country reported increasing wholesale cocaine prices since June 1984. Record numbers of clients reported for treatment, and an increased number of hospital emergencies and overdose deaths were attributed to cocaine use. The following trends were also noted:

- Foreign coca production continued at high levels. Law enforcement activity in the form of seizures and arrests, however, caused wholesale prices to rise somewhat from 1983 levels although they remained below levels reported from 1980 through 1982.
- The use of heroin-cocaine mixtures, known as 'speedballs,' continued to increase.
- The 'freebasing' of cocaine continued to expand, a pattern similar to 1983.

During 1984, there was a continued increase in cocaine-related hospital emergencies and deaths. DAWN* data show that cocaine-related hospital emergencies reached 8,510 for 1984, a 51 percent increase over the 5,636 reported during 1983. There was a large increase in cocaine use for most age groups; smaller increases occurred among persons in their early to middle thirties and age 45 and older. The largest percentage in cocaine-related hospital emergencies occurred among black males. Also the number of deaths reported through medical examiners nationwide rose from 349 in 1983 to 617 in 1984, an increase of approximately 77 percent. The greater number of hospital emergencies and cocaine-related deaths is attributed primarily to more dangerous forms of use, i.e., 'freebasing' (smoking), injection, and combining cocaine with heroin in 'speedballs.' The number of cocaine/heroin combination hospital emergencies rose by 37 percent, from 1,812 in 1983 to 2,514 in 1984, accounting for approximately 24 percent of all cocaine-related hospital emergencies. In addition to 'speedballs,' cocaine in combination with alcohol and PCP have shown increases in frequency of use since 1982. This trend continued in 1984. The cities reporting the most serious cocaine use problem in 1984 were New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, and Detroit.

The longevity of cocaine use in the United States now permits the observation of phenomena not previously noted. New psychoses are surfacing among

long-term users; patterns of violently reactive behavior have been described by treatment officers and medical personnel. New physiological tolerances, exceeding the previously estimated lethal dosage of 1.2 grams, also have been noted among long-term users. One clinical investigator, moreover, has established that daily cocaine users who snort or inject the drug consume approximately five grams per week. Cocaine 'freebasers' were estimated to consume over nine grams per week.

The smoking of coca paste and cocaine base in marijuana and tobacco cigarettes was evident during 1984. Increases were reported in Miami, New York City, and Los Angeles. Users were attracted to this drug form because of its convenience, relative low cost and, most importantly, the elimination of the sophisticated refining process, including the use of ether, required for processing cocaine HCl.

By early 1984, the large quantities of cocaine available in the United States caused substantial reductions in wholesale prices in many cities. In south Florida, wholesale cocaine prices had dropped to as low as \$16,000 per kilogram in the spring of 1984, and \$30,000 in New York City. By the end of the year, however, kilogram prices had risen to between \$33,000 and \$38,000 in Miami and between \$40,000 and \$45,000 in New York City, but the national average of \$40,000 to \$50,000 was still below levels reported from 1980 through 1983. Purity levels for kilogram quantities continued at around 90 percent, the same as in 1984.

Unlike the fluctuation in wholesale cocaine prices, retail prices in most metropolitan areas have remained relatively unchanged during the last several years. Most cities continued to report gram quantities selling for \$100 or more, but a few cities, such as Miami and New York, reported gram quantities selling for less. Average retail purities were approximately 35 percent, unchanged from 1984.

* Drug Abuse Warning Network Consistent Panel.

Methods of Cocaine Use

Intranasal

Cocaine, spilled on a hard, flat non-absorbent surface such as a mirror, is chopped into 'lines' with a razor to make it more powdery. 'Lines' may vary in the amount of cocaine, depending on the user's habits or tolerance. It is inhaled or 'snorted' intranasally and absorbed into the mucous membranes of the nasal cavity. Cocaine may be 'snorted' from a small 'coke spoon,' or up a 'tooter,' or 'quill,' a short glass or metal tube, cut-off straws, or rolled-up paper money. The effect lasts 15 to 30 minutes.

Intravenous

As much as a gram of cocaine can be dissolved in water and drawn into a syringe. A vein is tied off with a tourniquet. The user will then insert the needle into a vein. Before actually injecting the cocaine, the experienced user will draw back the plunger of the syringe. Blood appearing in the syringe indicates that a vein has been entered and the cocaine will then be injected. The onset of the cocaine effect or 'rush' is immediate, and lasts up to 10 minutes. The total effect may last 30 minutes. 'Speedballing,' an injection of cocaine and heroin, has been prevalent among the narcotic addict population.

Freebasing

Freebasing begins with dissolving street cocaine in water and adding an alkali (ammonium, sodium

hydroxide, or sodium carbonate). The alkali liquifies the powder and separates the hydrochloride salts and cutting agents, such as lidocaine, lactose, or mannitol, from the cocaine. A solvent, such as petroleum ether, is then added to the solution. The ether 'collects' the cocaine and separates it from the other ingredients and forms a floating layer on top of the other liquid. An eyedropper is then used to draw off the top layer. The ether/base solution is then slowly squirted onto a dish. In a few minutes the ether evaporates and a solid substance forms, cocaine freebase.

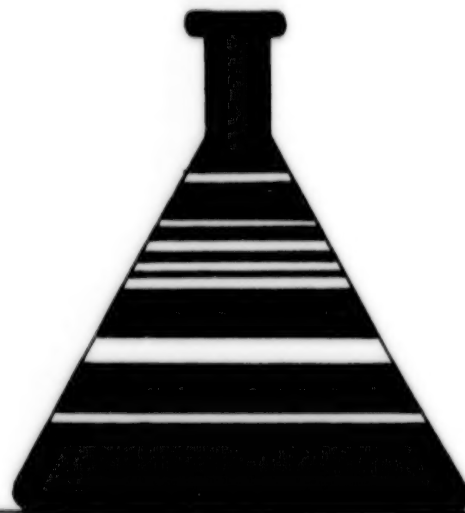
The freebase is then placed on a screen at the top of a vertical shaft of a specially designed pipe. A flame is applied to the pipe which causes the freebase to vaporize. The smoke is then inhaled orally through another shaft which extends from the side of the pipe. The 'rush,' almost immediate and extremely intense, lasts only a few moments.

Bazuco

In many parts of the United States and in Colombia, 'bazuco' refers to the smoking of cocaine base or coca paste with marijuana or tobacco in a cigarette. In Peru and Bolivia coca paste is used in the same manner and is called 'pasta basica' and 'pitillo,' respectively.



Dangerous Drugs Review 1984



The term 'dangerous drugs' refers to a broad category of substances, both licit and illicit. It includes the following types of drugs: narcotics/analgesics other than opium and heroin, stimulants other than cocaine and certain coca products, psychomimetics/hallucinogens other than cannabis products, and all depressants and sedatives.

During 1984, the use and availability of dangerous drugs in the United States remained at relatively high levels. There was a slight increase in the use and availability of phencyclidine (PCP) and a large increase in the use and availability of methamphetamine and codeine/glutethimide combinations. Hydromorphone (Dilaudid), and oxycodone (Percodan) continued to be used at relatively high, yet stable, levels. An increase in the use and availability of fentanyl (a synthetic opiate) and its analogs was also noted on the U.S. west coast. In some areas of the country phenmetrazine (Preludin) and methylphenidate (Ritalin), amphetamine-like substances, continued to be used in combination with heroin.

The year 1984 did witness, however, significant decreases in the availability and use of several substances. The combination of pentazocine (Talwin), a narcotic analog, and tripeleminamine (Pyribenzamine), used as a heroin substitute, decreased significantly. In the area of depressants/sedative-hypnotics, the use of methaqualone con-

tinued to decline. There was also a considerable decrease in the use and availability of amphetamines and a slight decrease in the use and availability of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD).

Clandestine Laboratories

As in past years, clandestine laboratories accounted for the production of a large portion of the total supply of illicit dangerous drugs. Clandestine laboratory seizures, when viewed alone, are not necessarily valid indicators of a change in a drug's use and availability, but may reflect law enforcement priorities. An increase or decrease in the number of clandestine laboratory seizures with corresponding changes in emergency room mentions, however, would be a more accurate indication of a change in the use and availability of a specific dangerous drug.

More clandestine laboratories were seized in 1984 than in any other year in the past decade. During 1984, 312 clandestine laboratories were seized, a 38 percent increase over 1983 levels. PCP, methamphetamine, and amphetamine laboratories accounted for 82 percent of all seizures. Cocaine processing laboratory seizures almost doubled between 1983 and 1984. Methaqualone laboratory seizures decreased from ten in 1983 to four in 1984. Seizures of methamphetamine and amphetamine laboratories increased significantly. There were 185 metham-

phetamine laboratory seizures in 1984 and 119 in 1983. Amphetamine laboratory seizures totaled 40 in 1984 and 25 in 1983.

Clandestine Laboratory Seizures in the United States

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Amphetamine	20	14	18	25	40
Cocaine	3	5	6	11	21
Methamphetamine	126	89	133	119	185
Methaqualone	17	13	7	10	4
PCP	49	35	47	39	30
Other Drugs	20	27	14	22	32
Total	235	183	225	226	312

Stimulants

Methamphetamine

Following a slight decline in 1983, the use and availability of methamphetamine rose in 1984. Clandestine laboratories remained the leading source of methamphetamine and outlaw motorcycle gangs continued to be major manufacturers and distributors. Emergency room mentions* and laboratory seizures reached a six-year high of 1,948 and 185 respectively. A shortage of the methamphetamine precursor P2P (phenyl-2-propanone), a controlled substance, was a factor in the decline of methamphetamine availability during 1983. Illicit chemists, however, have increased production of P2P and, in fact, 22 P2P laboratories were seized in 1984. The previous year only five were seized.

The most notable increases in emergency room mentions were from reporting facilities in Philadelphia and San Francisco. In 1984, there were 296 methamphetamine-related emergency room mentions reported for San Francisco; in 1983 the total was 139. While Philadelphia had 429 mentions in 1984, 246 were reported in 1983. Clandestinely manufactured methamphetamine of high quality remains one of the most frequently encountered drugs in the San Francisco area and is particularly popular within the homosexual community. In Philadelphia, methamphetamine, with the possible exception of cocaine, remains the drug of choice within the abuser community.

Amphetamine

During 1984, the use and availability of oral dosage forms of amphetamine decreased while the

injectable type appeared to increase. Most illicit amphetamine is taken in either tablet or capsule form. Only a small percentage of users inject it. Amphetamine-related emergency room mentions decreased from 1,132 in 1983 to 974 in 1984. Sixty-nine percent resulted from oral administration, 18 percent from injection, and the remaining 13 percent from either inhalation, smoking, sniffing/snorting, or other methods. Increases in amphetamine-related emergency room mentions were reported in Dallas, Kansas City, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle.

The decline in the use of oral dosage forms of amphetamine reflected, in part, the curtailment of supplies diverted from legitimate channels in the United States. In 1984, the U.S. Government decreased the amount of legitimately manufactured amphetamine. This reduced the diversion of these stimulants. Most oral dosage forms of illicit amphetamine in the United States in 1984 were from clandestine laboratories in Mexico.

As in previous years, a significant portion (80 percent) of injectable amphetamine was produced in domestic clandestine laboratories. In 1984, 40 laboratories producing injectable amphetamine were seized as compared to 25 in 1983. Thirty-two of the forty laboratories were in Texas.

Deaths attributed to the injection of amphetamine have increased steadily since 1982. That year, 42 deaths were reportedly associated with the use of injectable amphetamine. This figure rose to 47 in 1983 and then 57 in 1984.

The use and availability of MDA (3,4-methylenedioxymphetamine) remained unchanged from 1983. MDA has pharmacological properties similar to both amphetamine and mescaline and is classified as a hallucinogen.

'Look-alike' and 'Act-alike' Drugs

The use of stimulant 'look-alike' drugs continued to decline during 1984. They did, however, continue to proliferate in Arizona and the vast majority of stimulants available on the streets of Chicago were 'look-alikes.'

Federal regulations now permit 'look-alikes' to contain only one active ingredient rather than a potentially hazardous combination of ingredients. Furthermore, 'look-alikes' can no longer physically resemble controlled substances. Manufacturers now produce and distribute 'act-alikes'*** which contain active stimulant ingredients but do not resemble controlled substances. They are advertised as diet aids, decongestants, and stimulants. If 'act-alikes' are used in excess or with other drugs or alcohol, they can cause serious injury or death.

* 'Look-alikes' capsules or tablets which contain non-controlled ingredients such as ephedrine or caffeine and manufactured to physically resemble controlled substances.

** 'Act-alikes' capsules or tablets advertised as diet aids, decongestants, etc., which contain the same ingredients as 'look-alikes,' but do not physically resemble controlled substances.

* Emergency room data represent the DAWN Consistent Panel which includes only those data reported by facilities on a consistent basis, i.e., at 90 percent or more during each year.

Depressants

Methaqualone

The use and availability of methaqualone decreased significantly during 1984, continuing a trend which began in 1981. Methaqualone-related emergency room mentions dropped from 1,611 in 1983 to 885 in 1984, a decrease of 45 percent. In 1980, there were nearly 4,400 methaqualone-related emergency room mentions, almost five times as many as in 1984. Nearly half of 1984's emergency room mentions were reported in Miami (28 percent), New York (12 percent), and Philadelphia (9 percent). At the same time, significant decreases also occurred in the number of deaths related to methaqualone use. In 1980, there were 142 methaqualone-related deaths reported by medical examiners, 49 in 1983, and 11 in 1984. There were only four clandestine methaqualone laboratories seized in the United States in 1984 as compared to 10 in 1983.

As a consequence of international controls, which have been adopted by virtually all major producing and exporting countries, bulk methaqualone powder in international commerce destined for the illicit traffic is infrequently encountered. Traffickers previously had used diverted supplies of methaqualone powder for their clandestine laboratory operations; however, during 1984 the active ingredients in the tablets generally were alternative depressants/sedatives such as diazepam, phenobarbital, secobarbital, or diphenhydramine. Southern Florida was the center of methaqualone trafficking in 1984. That area and the southeastern portion of the country are expected to remain prime sites for illicit methaqualone activity for the near future.

Diazepam was the active ingredient found in counterfeit methaqualone tablets (Quaaludes) smuggled from Canada into the United States. Counterfeit methaqualone coming into the United States from Mexico most often contained secobarbital as the active depressant ingredient. Counterfeit Quaaludes containing methaqualone substitutes are reputed among users to be of inferior quality and consistency; this perception has contributed to their decreased use.

Many former methaqualone users appeared to prefer diazepam (Valium) as a depressant and no longer purchased counterfeit methaqualone which also contained diazepam. The bulk of diazepam reached illicit users through diversion, over-prescribing, prescription fraud, and smuggling. Diazepam remained the most widely used dangerous drug in 1984. Generally it was used alone or in combination with other psycho-active substances.

Phenobarbital

The use of phenobarbital continued to decline in 1984. There were 1,603 phenobarbital-related emergency room mentions in 1984. In 1983, there

were 1,753 mentions, but in 1982 the total was 2,012. According to emergency room data, the major cities of abuse are Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, New York, and Philadelphia. These cities account for almost 40 percent of all phenobarbital-related emergency room mentions.

Narcotics/Analgesics and Heroin Substitutes/Supplements

A significant part of the illicit narcotics milieu during 1984 continued to be the availability and use of pharmaceutical products. Synthetic opiates and central nervous system depressants were used in combination, or as substitutes for and supplements to heroin. Also, these narcotic analgesics may be the primary drugs of choice for a substantial portion of the opiate addict population of the United States who use them not as substitutes or supplements for heroin, but instead of heroin.

The use and availability of pentazocine (Talwin) and tripeleminamine (Pryribenzamine) decreased significantly during 1984. Emergency room mentions dropped from an estimated 774 in 1983 to an estimated 251 in 1984, representing the lowest total yet reported through DAWN. Chicago and New Orleans are the leading cities for emergency room mentions. Although these two cities accounted for over 50 percent of Talwin/Pryribenzamine emergency room mentions, the total number of mentions did decrease from 1983 levels. Emergency room mentions were also relatively high in Dallas and St. Louis. A factor in decreased Talwin use was the reformulation of Talwin with the narcotic antagonist, naloxone, which causes adverse effects in addicts.

Codeine/Glutethimide

During 1984, the use of another pharmaceutical opiate combination, codeine and glutethimide, increased following a period of relative stability during 1982 and 1983. There were an estimated 154 codeine/glutethimide-related emergency room mentions during 1984 as compared to an estimated 83 during 1983. Los Angeles was the leading city for codeine/glutethimide-related emergency room mentions. The use of this combination in Los Angeles remained fairly constant with 1983 levels. Philadelphia, Boston, and San Diego also had relatively high codeine/glutethimide-related emergency room mentions during 1984.

Hydromorphone

The use and availability of hydromorphone (Dilaudid) also remained a significant problem in 1984. Emergency room data indicate, however, that use of Dilaudid may be leveling off. There were 710 Dilaudid-related emergency room mentions in 1984 and 726 in 1983. Major cities of abuse according to this data are Miami, Washington, D.C., Detroit, and

New Orleans. Emergency room mentions for both Detroit and New Orleans have decreased significantly, however, from 1983 levels. In 1984, there were 83 mentions in Detroit and 127 in 1983. There were 68 mentions in New Orleans in 1984 and 111 during 1983.

Oxycodone

The use of oxycodone (Percodan) increased in 1984 following a decrease in 1983. There were 1,207 Percodan-related emergency room mentions in 1984 as compared to 1,189 in 1983. Although mentions did increase over 1983 levels, they still remain lower than those for 1981 and 1982. The leading cities for Percodan-related emergency room mentions were Miami, Philadelphia, and Boston. They did, however, decrease slightly in Philadelphia.

Controlled Substance Analogs

During the 1970's, illicit chemists in California began to structurally modify controlled substances and produced analogs of these substances not covered by the Controlled Substances Act. They initially created analogs of stimulant and hallucinogenic drugs. The most recent development has been the synthesis of heroin substitutes such as fentanyl and meperidine analogs. While the illicit manufacture of hallucinogenic and stimulant analogs has spread to other parts of the country, the production of synthetic heroin substances remains centered in California.

Fentanyl Analogs

Perhaps the best example of this phenomenon is the synthetic opiate fentanyl and its analogs. Fentanyl is a licit anesthetic used widely in major surgical procedures. It is also used illicitly as a heroin substitute and as a drug of choice. Recognizing that several analogs of fentanyl were not controlled, illicit chemists have synthesized at least eight analogs of fentanyl such as 3-methyl fentanyl and benzyl fentanyl. Some of these analogs can be thousands of times more potent than morphine. Between 1981 and 1984, 90 users of fentanyl analogs died of overdoses. Use and sale of fentanyl analogs also has been reported in Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and east coast states.

The meperidine (Demerol) analog, MPPP, was first reported in California in 1982. Epidemiological studies show that MPPP, or similar meperidine analogs, were also available in 1984. While no deaths resulting from the use of these analogs have been reported to DEA, users have experienced serious toxic reactions. The illicit manufacture of meperidine analogs appears to have centered around the production of the analog MPPP. Several attempts to synthesize this compound resulted in the production of MPTP, a neurotoxic substance. The

Santa Clara Valley Medical Center and Center for Disease Control reported that between 1982 and 1984, 150 people used meperidine analogs in California. At least seven of these known users have developed Parkinson's disease (a nerve disorder).

Hallucinogens

Phencyclidine (PCP)

As it has for the last decade, PCP dominated the illicit hallucinogen situation in the United States. There were 4,527 PCP-related emergency room mentions in 1984; 4,376 in 1983; and 3,384 in 1982. The major cities of PCP use according to emergency room data were Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and New York. Although Los Angeles had the highest number of emergency room mentions (1,320) in 1984, they did decrease from the 1,653 reported in 1983. There was, however, a 90 percent increase in PCP-related emergency room mentions between 1983 and 1984 in Washington, D.C. Mentions rose from 507 in 1983 to 965 in 1984.

Except for 1982, PCP laboratory seizures have declined steadily since 1979; only 30 PCP laboratories were seized in 1984 as compared to 39 in 1983 and 47 in 1982. As was the case in 1983, PCP laboratory seizures were concentrated in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, and Chicago. Washington, D.C. had the highest number of seizures (nine). In 1983, Los Angeles reported the highest number of PCP laboratory seizures (15); however, only five seizures were reported for that city in 1984.

Black and Hispanic traffickers dominated the illicit manufacture and distribution of PCP during 1984. The PCP-using population also consisted increasingly of black and Hispanic youth. A major exception to this pattern was found in the Queens section of New York City and in suburban Long Island, where PCP was heavily used by white males between the ages of 15 and 25.

Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD)

Availability and use of LSD decreased in 1984 following a brief resurgence of popularity during the early 1980's. There were 721 LSD-related emergency room mentions in 1984, 789 in 1983, and 1,148 in 1982. The main cities reporting LSD use in 1984 were, in ranking order, New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Philadelphia.

The most prevalent forms of LSD in 1984 were relatively low potency 'microdots' and 'blotter paper.' The average dosage unit of LSD in 1984 contained 15 to 60 micrograms of active ingredient. In comparison, the tablet forms of LSD used during the height of the drug's popularity in the late 1960's typically averaged 100 to 200 micrograms per dosage unit.

International Developments

The diversion of dangerous drugs from legitimate channels of international commerce has become a problem of significant proportions. Pharmaceuticals and precursors are diverted primarily through the use of falsified importation documents. The United States Government has worked closely with various international organizations such as the International Narcotic Control Board and Interpol to eliminate this method. Also, programs to detect and interdict suspicious shipments at selected major ports continued during 1984. For example, 4.8 million dosage units of dangerous drugs from foreign countries were seized at U.S. borders from all forms of conveyances; 98 percent of the total was seized in Texas. Air cargo shipments accounted for 70 percent of the dangerous drugs seized at ports of entry in Texas. Of the dangerous drugs reported seized at Texas ports of entry, 30 percent were counterfeit methaqualone tablets composed of secobarbital and were smuggled via land conveyances.

DAWN Emergency Room Mentions*

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Amphetamine	1,286	1,297	1,157	1,132	974
Codeine	932	998	933	836	800
Glutethimide	341	416	400	350	417
Hydromorphone	557	654	685	726	710
LSD	1,116	1,138	1,148	789	721
Methamphet- amine	1,425	1,677	1,726	1,618	1,948
Methaqualone	4,393	3,629	2,764	1,611	885
Oxycodone	1,151	1,271	1,283	1,189	1,207
Pentazocine	1,630	2,235	2,177	1,461	679
PCP	3,782	2,722	3,384	4,376	4,527
Phenobarbital	2,023	2,190	2,012	1,753	1,603

* DAWN Consistent Panel

Clandestine Laboratory Seizures - 1984 by Field Division (percent of total)*

Amphetamine

Dallas	29	(73%)
Houston	3	(8%)
San Francisco	2	(5%)
Denver	2	(5%)
Other	4	(10%)

Methamphetamine

San Francisco	45	(24%)
Houston	40	(22%)
Seattle	17	(9%)
San Diego	15	(8%)
Los Angeles	12	(6%)
Philadelphia	11	(6%)
Other	45	(24%)

Methaqualone

Detroit	1	(25%)
Los Angeles	1	(25%)
Miami	1	(25%)
San Diego	1	(25%)

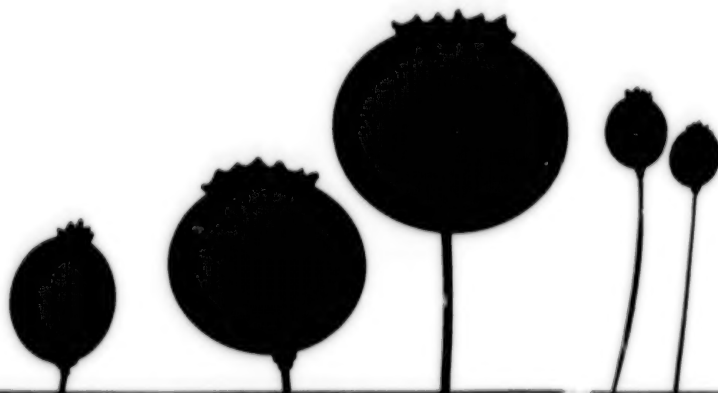
PCP

Washington, D.C.	9	(30%)
Chicago	5	(17%)
Los Angeles	5	(17%)
New Orleans	3	(10%)
Miami	2	(7%)
San Francisco	2	(7%)
Other	4	(13%)

*Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.

Opiates Review

1984



Domestic

The most recent information available indicates that there were 490,000 heroin addicts/users in the United States in 1981. Although no later estimates have been made, hospital emergency room data for heroin/morphine-related injuries suggest that the number of users increased between 1981 and 1983. The addict population, however, primarily consists of long-time users or recidivists.

The estimated six metric tons of heroin consumed in this country in 1984 came from Southwest Asia (51 percent), Mexico (32 percent), and Southeast Asia (17 percent).^{*} The purity of street-level heroin averaged 4.7 percent and addicts paid from \$45 to \$65 for 1.5 grams. The median price of a kilogram of heroin at the wholesale level, ranging in purity from 50 to 90 percent, was about \$215,000.

Wholesale suppliers of heroin in the United States were varied. Suppliers included traditional organized crime (TOC), Pakistanis, Turks, Lebanese, and Mexicans. Other ethnic groups smuggling lesser quantities were Nigerians, Sino-Thais, Nepalese, and Iranians. Each group tended to supply certain geographic areas. For instance, TOC's activities were most heavily concentrated in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Mexican suppliers dominated in the Southwest and West, and in some areas of the Midwest. While a particular group may have prevailed in a certain area, they faced competition from others. Pakistanis supplied such diverse American cities as New York City, Los Angeles, Detroit, Phoenix, and Las Vegas. The Nigerians, an increasingly visible group in 1984, brought heroin

into the Washington, D.C. area and New York City. Wholesale suppliers also usually deal with only one type of heroin. TOC, Turks, Pakistanis, Lebanese, and Nigerians obtain heroin from Southwest Asian source countries. Mexicans have a virtual monopoly on heroin from that country and control all aspects of the trafficking.

Southwest Asian Heroin

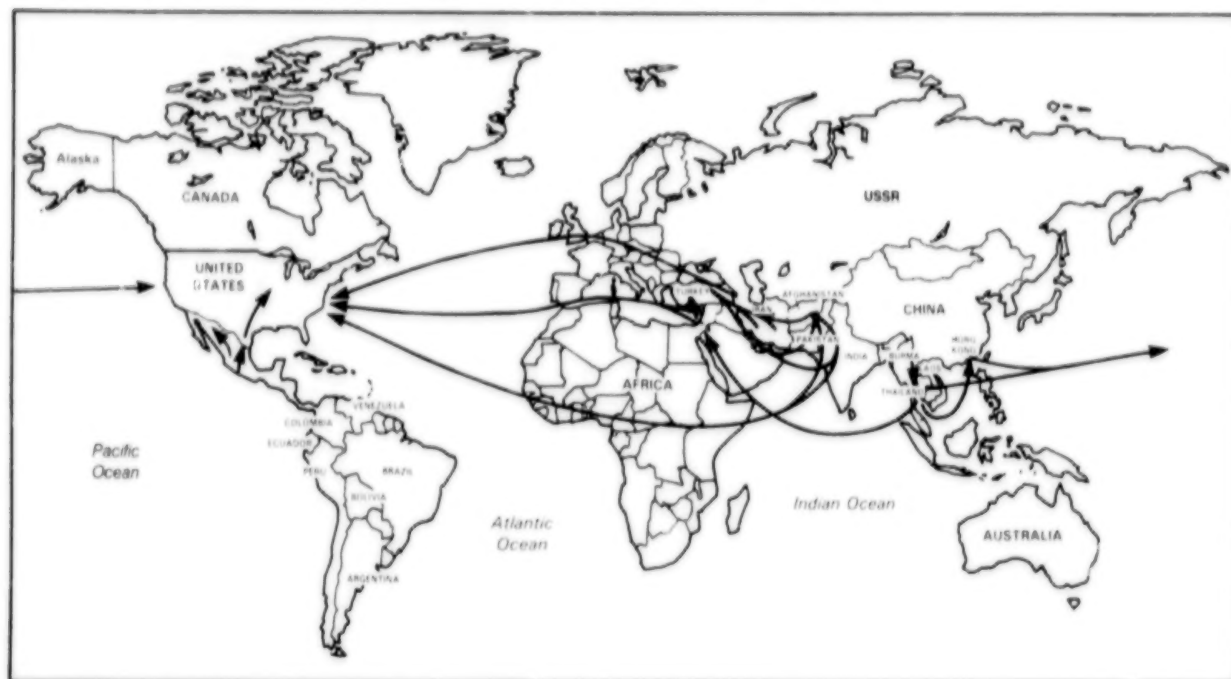
TOC involvement in heroin trafficking was largely confined to New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Several years ago, most of the heroin this criminal element received had been processed in Italy and Sicily. The ongoing power struggle between Mafia families in Sicily for control of the lucrative heroin trade and increased law enforcement efforts have disrupted laboratory activity. Organized crime elements in Italy and Sicily, however, were believed to be obtaining heroin from Turkey, Pakistan, and Lebanon for shipment to the United States. TOC groups in the United States did not depend solely on heroin supplies from Italy and Sicily. There were indications that one TOC group obtained heroin directly from Pakistan as well as Southeast Asia.

Pakistani trafficking organizations were found in many major American cities. They supplied street-level distributors in New York City, Los Angeles, Detroit, Phoenix, Las Vegas, and Washington, D.C. Some Pakistani traffickers established contacts with American criminals while they were incarcerated for narcotics offenses. Although many of the major Pakistani trafficking organizations imported heroin through both east and west coast ports of entry, some traffickers were believed to have routed shipments through Canada, the Caribbean, and Southeast Asia. Some heroin was smuggled into the United States by airline personnel and by crew members of Pakistani vessels. Heroin was also sent through the international mail.

Lebanese traffickers were active in Boston, New York City, and New Jersey. A group of Lebanese traffickers, with several heroin sources in Lebanon,

^{*} Percentages are based on data from DEA's Heroin Signature Program. Chemical analysis identifies and quantifies selected heroin characteristics and secondary constituents. From the resultant data, heroin exhibits are classified according to the process by which they are manufactured which in turn enables the association of exhibits with geographic regions.

Heroin Smuggling Routes from Source Areas to the United States



was arrested in 1984. This network, controlled by Lebanese criminal factions in Boston, extended as far as Houston and Los Angeles. They were alleged to have smuggled multi-kilogram quantities of heroin into the United States weekly for the past 10 years. Small-time, independent traffickers and other Lebanese groups with ties to Europe were also believed to have brought heroin into the country by courier on commercial air carriers.

Nigerians became more active in smuggling Southwest Asian (SWA) heroin into the United States. In 1984, 129 Nigerians were arrested on heroin charges; in 1983, the total was 24. Nigerian traffickers obtained their heroin in Pakistan or India and returned to Nigeria before transporting it to the United States, frequently on direct flights from Lagos to New York City. Other couriers transited European cities prior to entering the United States. The most frequently used method of smuggling by Nigerian couriers was to conceal the heroin in body cavities. Packages were also taped to the body, or concealed in clothing, hair, hollowed-out heels of shoes, and tubes of luggage carts. Nigerian couriers usually smuggled heroin in amounts totaling 100 to 200 grams.

Other wholesale suppliers of SWA heroin included Turks and Iranians. Turkish traffickers, operating out of Baltimore, were believed to have supplied heroin to members of TOC families in Pennsylvania and New York. It is probable that these shipments were brought into the United States by crewmen from Turkish vessels which dock at Baltimore. While Turkish traffickers largely confined their activities to this east coast city, Iranian trafficking organizations reportedly operated in Los Angeles and San Francisco. While the Iranians generally received their heroin supplies from couriers and via international

mail from the Middle East, they were also reportedly shipping heroin to Los Angeles through Mexico.

Mexican Heroin

Mexican nationals and Mexican-Americans maintain a virtual monopoly on heroin produced in Mexico. It is not until the heroin is ready for street-level distribution that Mexican involvement ceases. Mexican heroin was the most frequently encountered type of heroin in the Midwest, Southwest, and West, although it was also found in limited quantities in other areas of the country.

Mexican heroin was available in both the powder form and the more popular 'black tar' variety in western and southwestern states. 'Black tar' or 'tootsie roll' heroin was popular among users because it was frequently uncut and purity ranged from 60 percent to nearly 90 percent. As a result of poor processing, it has a gummy consistency, which frequently makes it difficult to cut. Freezing makes it brittle and easier to pulverize in a blender. Some street-level distributors refused to deal in 'black tar' heroin because of the time and effort needed to cut it.

Heroin Signature data shows that from 1980 to 1984 the average purity of wholesale-level Mexican heroin has increased. Purchases and/or seizures of 100 grams or more averaged 4.3 percent in 1980 and 8.2 percent in 1981. By 1984, however, the average purity had risen to 44 percent. Increased purity levels also showed up at the street level. Street-level heroin averaged 4.7 percent nationally, but in traditionally Mexican-supplied cities, purities were higher. In Los Angeles purity levels reached 6.1 percent; in Phoenix 6 percent; and in San Antonio and Denver 5.2 percent.

Southeast Asian Heroin

Southeast Asian (SEA) heroin, unlike Mexican and SWA heroin, did not predominate in any single area of the country. It was found in greater quantities, however, in northeastern and western cities which have well-established Oriental communities. Trafficking in SEA heroin does differ somewhat from the other heroin types. Americans and Europeans operating independently are more likely to go to Bangkok, a major center for narcotics transactions, than they would to parallel centers in other source areas. Since many tourists visit Thailand, their presence would not arouse suspicion. Moreover, contacts to heroin sources are easily and frequently established through hotel employees and taxi cab drivers. Addicts usually buy only a few hundred grams: enough to supply their own needs and some to sell to cover their expenses. Independent operators most often only purchase a kilogram or two. A kilogram of high purity heroin sells for about \$10,000 in Bangkok, but in the United States the average price is \$215,000.

Although U.S. citizens smuggled SEA heroin into this country, the major share of it was brought into the west coast by Sino-Thai couriers who have connections to Thai nationals living on the west coast as well as in other areas of the country. Sino-Thai traffickers also have developed solid connections to American retailers and have expanded their own distribution networks in the United States.

Sino-Thai traffickers have also forged alliances with west coast-based Mexican traffickers who have established distribution systems. In November 1984, two Thais, with 5.5 kilograms of heroin concealed in their luggage, were arrested at New York City's international airport. They agreed to cooperate and a controlled delivery was made to a Mexican retailer in Los Angeles. The following month a Thai national, en route to Los Angeles, was arrested at Japan's Narita airport for possession of 1.6 kilograms of heroin. It was to be delivered to a Mexican trafficker.

Nepalese nationals emerged as a new factor in the trafficking of SEA heroin in the United States in 1984. Five SEA heroin seizures involved couriers whose travel originated in Nepal and the total amount confiscated was about five kilograms. In two of these cases, the heroin allegedly was obtained in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Intelligence indicated that one Nepalese group, with connections in Boston, New York City, Orlando, and Las Vegas, had been smuggling multi-kilogram quantities of SEA and SWA heroin into the United States for at least eight months.

Smuggling

Seventy-nine percent of the heroin seized in the United States in 1984 was brought into the country on commercial air carriers. This was the favored method for traffickers of SEA and SWA heroin, but

Mexican heroin was transported across the border in vehicles. Commercial and non-commercial vessels were used to a very limited extent.

SWA heroin couriers most commonly entered at New York City's international airport, but west coast airports were also used. Others transited Mexico or Canada in attempts to conceal their travel from source countries. Heroin couriers from Southeast Asia most frequently began their travel in Bangkok and disembarked at airports in Los Angeles or San Francisco.

Smugglers used a variety of methods to conceal their contraband narcotics. Devices included: false-sided suitcases, specially-constructed clothing, hollowed-out handles of knives and tennis rackets, hair spray cans, and record albums. Body packs and body cavities were also used.

Source Areas

Southwest Asia

The amount of opium produced in Southwest Asia decreased significantly in 1984 for several reasons. In Afghanistan, unfavorable weather, governmental measures aimed at the disruption of all agricultural activities, and the continuing internal strife, contributed to reduced opium production. Government drug control efforts and inadequate rainfall also resulted in a decreased opium yield in Pakistan. Iran's production, however, probably did not change from that of previous years.

Opium Production

(metric tons)

	1983	1984
Afghanistan	400- 575	140-180
Iran	400- 600	400-600
Pakistan	45- 60	40- 50
Total	845-1,235	580-830

In India, the licit opium poppy harvest was 434 metric tons in 1984. Total production failed to reach the anticipated 700 metric tons as a result of adverse weather conditions. Although illicit opium poppy cultivation was believed to be a minor problem, it reportedly expanded in non-traditional growing areas.

Refineries

Heroin refineries were located in the tribal areas of Pakistan and eastern Afghanistan. In 1984, Pakistani authorities seized three refineries in the Khyber Agency of the North-West Frontier Province.

Southwest Asia: Opium Poppy Cultivation Areas



Heroin produced in the many refineries of eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province was smuggled to Pakistan, while that from the laboratories of Helmand Province, in the southeastern part of the country, was possibly destined for Iran. It is also believed that Iranians refined heroin in laboratories along the Turkish border and in or close to the cities of Tabriz, Tehran, and Zahedan. In India, small-scale, illicit heroin refining was primarily centered in the state of Uttar Pradesh, near the licit poppy growing areas.

Refineries also operated in Middle Eastern countries. Four laboratories were seized in Turkey in 1984. While crude and poorly equipped, they produced heroin with high purity levels. Kurdish and Armenian traffickers in Syria reportedly converted opiates to heroin in laboratories near Aleppo and Latakia. Although there was no documentation of

refining activity in Lebanon, it is probable that laboratories continued to function in the Baalbek area, Tripoli, and Beirut.

Opiate Use

Despite considerable progress in drug treatment and education programs, heroin use in Pakistan continued to rise. There were an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 heroin addicts and 300,000 opium users in the country. While little is known about narcotics use in Afghanistan, the number of opium addicts has been estimated at 100,000 to 125,000. Prior to the 1979 revolution in Iran, there were more than one million opium addicts in the country and 50,000 regular heroin smokers. While opium use may have

decreased, there were probably at least 100,000 heroin addicts in Iran by the end of 1984. Narcotics from Pakistan and diverted licit Indian opium supplied India's three to five million opium addicts/users. Heroin addiction, an insignificant problem only a few years ago, has increased considerably in India.

Trafficking

Pakistan was a major heroin refining and trafficking country, although it was a relatively minor producer of opium. Large quantities of Afghan-produced opiates were smuggled across the largely unpatrolled border into Pakistan. Iran also received considerable amounts of Pakistani and Afghan opiates, but it is unknown how much was consumed within the country and how much was transshipped to Turkey, Western Europe, and North America. The Persian Gulf States have become transit areas, partly because of the large numbers of resident expatriate Pakistanis. This has led to domestic drug trafficking and/or use problems.

Opiates produced in Afghanistan and Pakistan were transshipped through and consumed in India. Indian-produced acetic anhydride, essential to heroin conversion, was smuggled into Burma for refineries there. Some of this SEA heroin was then transported into India for eventual distribution in other countries. Members of South Asian dissident groups, such as Sikhs and Tamils, increased their drug trafficking activities.

Turkey, between the source countries in the east and the consumer nations in the west, has become a natural transit country for illicit drugs. There were indications that traffickers were shifting to sea routes via Syria, Lebanon, and southern Turkey, and then to Italy, other European countries, or the United States.

Syrian traffickers continued to primarily supply heroin for European and American users. Most of these Syrians were from the cities of Aleppo and Azaz, although use of couriers from Jordan and other Arab nations increased. While heroin shipments of hundreds of kilograms to Europe were not uncommon, smaller quantities were more frequently smuggled by body carry, concealed in luggage on commercial air flights, or transported in trapped vehicles which either moved overland or were shipped by ferry through Mediterranean ports.

The continued unrest in Lebanon apparently forced traffickers to use the airport at Damascus (Syria) rather than the one in Beirut. Traffickers also used small vessels to transport narcotics to intermediate destinations such as Cyprus for onward shipment via commercial air to Europe and, increasingly, North Africa.

Approximately 80 percent of the heroin, consumed by Western Europe's estimated 280,000 to 382,000 users, came from Southwest Asia. User populations in most European countries have stabilized, but Italy and Spain reported increases.

In 1984, heroin seizures in Europe totaled approx-

imately 1,500 kilograms, the same as in 1983. Countries reporting the largest quantities of heroin seized were, in order: Italy, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, and Belgium. Heroin from Pakistan was primarily smuggled to Europe by couriers aboard commercial airline flights. The contraband, in lots of one to five kilograms, was often concealed in false bottoms or sides of suitcases. Routings through or to all major European airports were used, with notable increases in the use of Spanish and Portuguese airports in 1984.

SWA heroin from Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey generally entered Europe either through the Balkans or the Mediterranean. On the Balkan route, narcotics were shipped overland through Turkey, concealed in trucks or privately-owned vehicles, to Istanbul. From there, the narcotics were smuggled through Bulgaria and Yugoslavia to Italy or Austria and onward to other countries. Heroin also was transported by vessels and passenger car ferries across the Mediterranean from Turkish, Lebanese, or Syrian ports to Western Europe.

Mexico

Mexico remained a significant source country for heroin during 1984. Opium poppy cultivation continued to expand with an estimated 5,200 hectares under cultivation. This represents a 40 percent increase over the 3,700 hectares cultivated in 1983. The heaviest concentration of opium poppy cultivation was in the traditional tri-state area of Durango, Chihuahua, and Sinaloa. Cultivation increased significantly in Sonora and also spread to Guerrero, Jalisco, Michoacan, Oaxaca, and Veracruz.

Opium Production

(metric tons)

1983	1984
17	21

Poppies are usually harvested twice a year, in March and November, but in Guerrero and Oaxaca, fields eradicated in September, were replanted and sprouted new growth in November. While staggered planting has not been a common practice, climatic conditions, particularly in southern Mexico, would allow year-round planting. Opium poppy cultivation also took a new turn in an area a few minutes flying time from the trafficking center of Culiacan. A field of 20,000 opium poppy plants was eradicated in late December. The poppies had been planted, not in the ground, but in plastic bags. While this method has been used for the cultivation of poppy seedlings, many of these plants were in bloom and approaching maturity. The growers probably were raising the poppies in bags so they could be moved easily to a secure location in the event that eradication teams were seen in the area.

Heroin conversion laboratory seizures increased

Mexico: Significant Opium Poppy Cultivation Areas



in Mexico, from five in 1983 to twelve in 1984. This rise follows a steady decline over the years since 1978, when 27 laboratories were seized. The increase in seizures corresponds to greater opium production in Mexico during 1984. Laboratories are usually located near growing areas, but in 1984 laboratories were also seized in Mexico City, Nuevo Laredo, and Tijuana.

Opiate Use

There was very little use of opiates in Mexico. Consumption was generally confined to users in the larger cities.

Trafficking

After several years of calm, violence erupted in the State of Sinaloa. Between April and June, more than 55 homicides were reported. One contributory factor was the emergence of independent farmers in 'black tar' heroin distribution. Some farmers bypassed traditional opium brokers and sold the opium to new buyers who refined it into 'black tar.' Other farmers refined the opium themselves for direct distribution to American buyers. The farmer or trafficker smuggled the heroin to the United States and realized a far greater profit than if the opium had

been sold to a traditional broker. Feeling threatened, at least economically, by these independent operators, traditional heroin producers and distributors apparently resorted to violence in an effort to reestablish their control over the narcotics traffic. Although the violence may have discouraged some independent operators, it did not appear to have much of an effect on the flourishing 'black tar' heroin market in the Western United States.

In late January 1984, Guatemalan authorities destroyed an opium poppy plantation of 52 acres near Guatemala City. Several Mexican nationals, who had trained Guatemalans in cultivation techniques, were arrested. Although opium poppy cultivation is not widespread in Guatemala, information since 1981 has supported the belief that it would spread into Guatemala as a result of eradication campaigns in Mexico.

In 1984, approximately 49 kilograms of heroin were seized in 131 incidents along the United States/Mexico border. The previous year's total was 53 kilograms seized in 91 incidents. The average purity of the heroin seized along the border rose from almost 19 percent in 1983 to about 52 percent in 1984. The increase from 1983 to 1984 was actually less dramatic because one large seizure of low-purity heroin (around 6 percent) in 1983 affected the overall average for that year. California points of entry ac-

counted for most of the Mexican heroin seized. Seizures along the southern borders of Arizona and New Mexico increased during 1984 and those along the Texas border decreased.

Southeast Asia

Opium growers in the Golden Triangle have harvested bumper crops since the drought years of 1979 and 1980. The 1983-1984 crop was estimated to be 815 metric tons, a result of ideal weather and expanded planting in Burma.

Opium Production

(metric tons)

	1982/1983	1983/1984
Burma	600	740
Thailand	35	45
Laos	35	30
Total	670	815

Between one-half and two-thirds of Burma's production occurs in Burmese Communist Party (BCP)-controlled areas of the eastern and northern Shan State which lie beyond the Rangoon Government's control. Most of Thailand's opium crop is consumed by the hill tribe growers and only a small portion enters the illicit market. Little is known about the narcotics situation in Laos, but intelligence reports indicated that Lao hill tribe growers sold increasing amounts of opium to buyers from Burma and Thailand who paid more than the Lao Government. In the past, the Lao Government has sold opiate products to Soviet Bloc countries for pharmaceutical purposes and has probably continued to do so.

Refineries

Some of the opium in Burma is converted into impure morphine base and heroin base in laboratories in the growing areas. These products and opium are then transported to refineries concentrated along the Thailand/Burma border. Refinery activity also took place along the Thailand/Malaysia border and laboratories were seized in Penang, Kuala Lumpur, and Johore Bahru.

Opiate Use

According to the Burmese Ministry of Health, there were approximately 7,000 heroin and 29,500 opium addicts in the country as of January 1984. Other sources estimate, however, that there were possibly as many as 120,000 addicts. In Thailand, there were an estimated 75,000 to 200,000 opium and heroin addicts. About 80 percent of the country's heroin addicts are believed to live in Bangkok. Malaysian heroin addicts reportedly numbered about 200,000,

a conservative estimate. Hong Kong, another major user of Southeast Asian opiates, had an addict population of approximately 50,000.

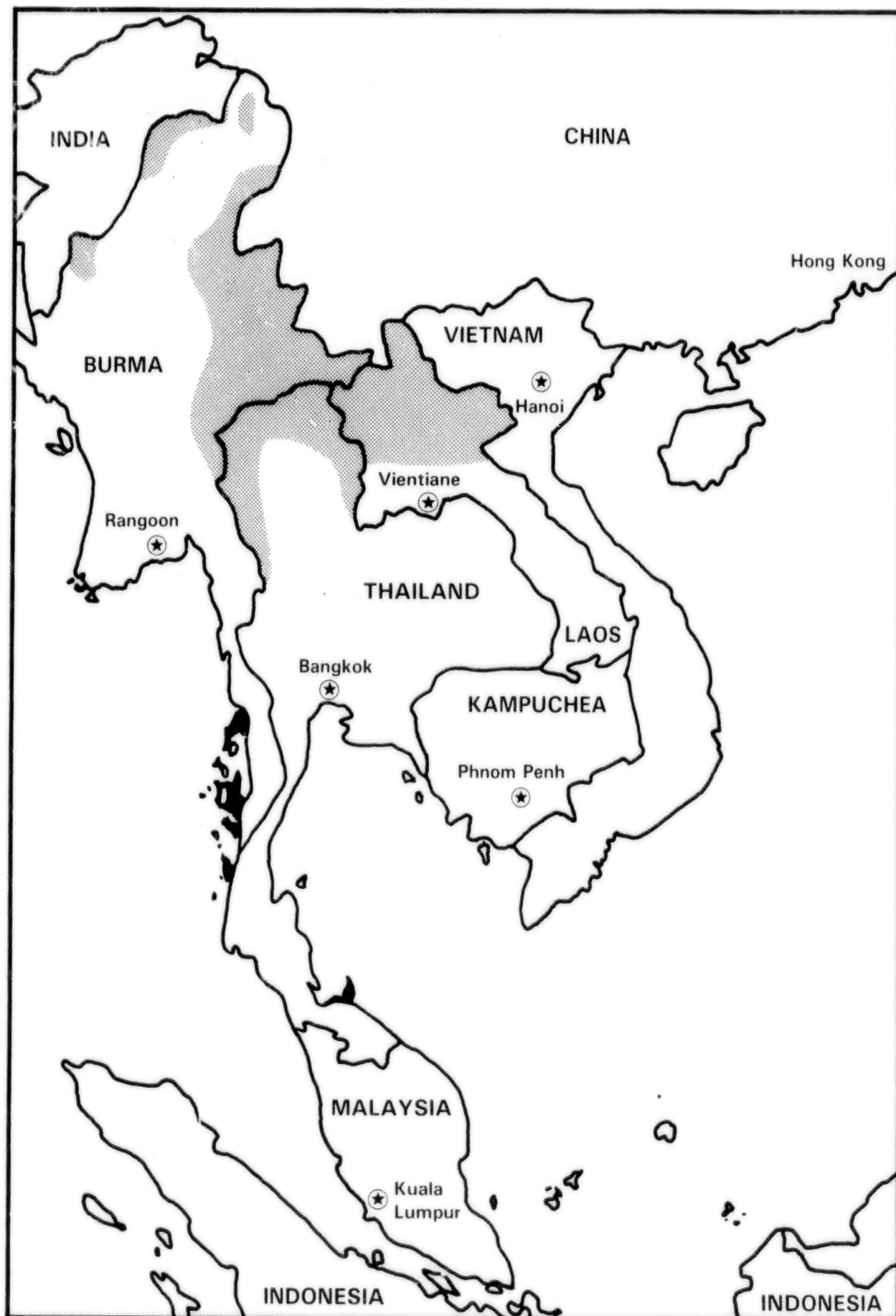
Trafficking

There are a variety of ethnic and political insurgent and trafficking groups active along the Burma/Thailand border which are engaged in various facets of opiate smuggling, trafficking, refining, and sales to finance their movements. The two dominant groups in the Golden Triangle are the BCP and the Shan United Army (SUA). Until recent years, they divided the growing and refining functions. The BCP served as the principal opium supplier and the SUA as the major refiner. When China, in an effort to improve relations with Burma, began reducing its support to the BCP in 1978, the BCP expanded its involvement in opiate trafficking to generate funds to compensate for its loss of Chinese assistance. In the summer of 1983, the BCP, realizing that more money comes from refining and selling heroin and that the heroin buyers come to the traditional refining areas along the Burma/Thailand border to make their purchases, began to move into the SUA-controlled border area at Doi Lang, Burma. There were sporadic clashes between these two former partners, and the BCP was forced to withdraw from Doi Lang after the Thai Army attack at the end of the year. Although the two groups remain antagonists, they still find it mutually beneficial to do business. The BCP supplies opiate products to the SUA and other trafficking groups as well as independent operators along the Burma/Thailand border.

The SUA, a one-time insurgent force that has developed strictly into a trafficking organization, operates a number of heroin refineries along the Burma/Thailand border. Its dominance of the border area had been temporarily threatened in 1983 by the BCP's presence. Sustained Royal Thai Government (RTG) pressure during the past two years also forced the SUA to move its headquarters from Thailand to Burma and damaged the SUA's claim that it served Thai interests as an effective border buffer force against communist expansion. During 1984, despite continued pressure from the RTG, the SUA reestablished its position along the border by moving against the other smaller groups one at a time, namely the Lahu State Army, the Wa National Army, the Shan State Army, the Shan United Revolutionary Army (SURA), and the remnants of the Kuomintang (KMT).

The KMT units, also known as the 3rd and 5th Chinese Irregular Forces (CIF's), that fled China after the Communist takeover in 1949, represent another well-armed element active in the border area. Controls on their activities by the RTG in 1984 left their positions at the border more open to SUA attacks. By mid-1984, the SUA absorbed into its own camp the 3rd CIF's principal ally, the SURA, which had handled most of the 3rd CIF's narcotic business. The

Southeast Asia: Opium Poppy Cultivation Areas



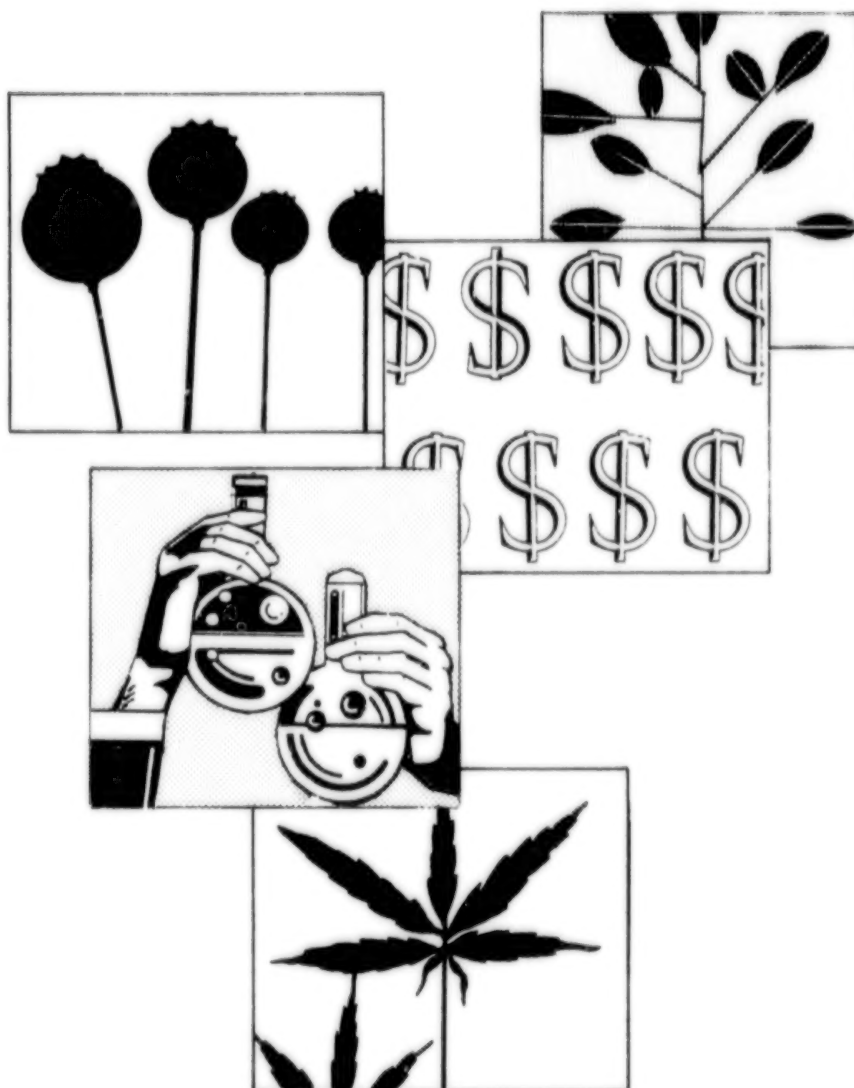
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SUA then put military pressure on the 3rd CIF to surrender troops and territories. Weakened by the new RTG policy, which ordered that the 3rd CIF be disarmed, and SUA harassment, many of the 3rd CIF members either retreated further into Burma or surrendered to the RTG.

Thailand remains the primary route by which Golden Triangle heroin reaches world markets. Alternative transportation routes continued to be used more frequently in the face of increased pressure from both Thai and Burmese police and military units operating against the border refineries and trafficking groups. There is growing evidence that considerable amounts of opiates move south through Burma along the Tenasserim Coast, both overland and by sea, to southern Thailand and Malaysia, for conversion at heroin refineries along the Thailand/Malaysia border and in Penang. Additionally, a major route through Mandalay into India has been identified which is also used for the shipment of large quantities of Indian manufactured acetic anhydride into Burma for use at refineries in BCP-controlled areas and along the Burma/Thailand border.

Malaysia appears to be emerging as an important refiner and transshipper of Golden Triangle opiates. Some Malay narcotics officials speculate that the country's growing addict population consumes approximately five metric tons of heroin annually and that even more heroin is exported or transshipped abroad every year. Moreover, they believe that the great majority of that heroin is now processed within Malaysia using opium and morphine base from the Golden Triangle.

Hong Kong, a primary consumer of Golden Triangle opiates, imports large amounts of heroin base for local conversion into heroin No. 3, or smoking heroin. Seizures of heroin base in Hong Kong have risen steadily over the past several years, with record amounts seized in 1983 and 1984. Many heroin couriers traveling from Asia, particularly to Europe, are Hong Kong Chinese. Hong Kong is also a major financial and money laundering center for narcotics sales and purchases. Some of the heroin produced in the Colony for local consumption is shipped elsewhere, but there are no reliable estimates of the amount.



Domestic Drug Prices

Domestic Drug Prices Wholesale and Retail

Marijuana

Wholesale (per lb.)

	1983		1984	
Domestic Commercial	\$ 350-	650	\$ 250-	650
Domestic Sinsemilla	1,000-	2,000	1,200-	2,500
Colombian Commercial	400-	600	400-	600
Jamaican Commercial	400-	600	400-	650
Mexican Commercial	350-	550	350-	600
Thai Sticks	-		1,000-	1,200

Retail (per oz.)

Domestic Commercial	\$ 40-	65	\$ 45-	75
Domestic Sinsemilla	100-	150	120-	180
Colombian Commercial	60-	75	55-	75
Jamaican Commercial	45-	65	50-	75
Mexican Commercial	40-	60	50-	70

Cocaine

Wholesale (per kg.)

	1983	1984
National Average	\$ 45,000- 55,000	\$ 40,000- 50,000
Miami	25,000- 30,000	33,000- 38,000
New York City	35,000- 45,000	40,000- 45,000
Chicago	45,000- 55,000	35,000- 55,000
Los Angeles	45,000- 55,000	35,000- 45,000

Wholesale (per oz.)

National Average	\$ 1,800- 2,500	\$ 1,800- 2,400
Miami	1,600- 2,200	1,600- 2,000
New York City	1,600- 2,400	1,600- 2,200
Chicago	1,700- 2,400	1,700- 2,400
Los Angeles	1,600- 2,500	1,600- 2,200

Retail (per gm.)

National Average	\$ 100- 125	\$ 100- 120
Miami	50- 80	50- 90
New York City	75- 100	75- 100
Chicago	100	100
Los Angeles	100	100

Heroin

Wholesale (per kg.)

	1983	1984
SWA	\$150,000-220,000	\$100,000-240,000
SEA	150,000-220,000	155,000-220,000
Mexican	200,000-350,000	205,000-350,000

Retail

Street Quarter*	\$ 50- 75	\$ 45- 65
Gram	80- 150	60- 160
Mexican Tar (gm.)	400- 600	300- 600

Stimulants

Methamphetamine

Wholesale (per oz.)

	1983	1984
National Average	\$ 1,000- 2,000	\$ 1,100- 2,000
San Francisco	1,000- 1,300	1,100- 1,300
Newark	800- 1,600	800- 1,600

* Street quarters composed of 1-2 grams of heroin, 3-12 percent in purity, found primarily in New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.

Methamphetamine (Cont'd.)

Wholesale (per oz.)	1983		1984	
Philadelphia	1,000-	1,200	1,000-	1,200
Phoenix	1,500-	1,900	1,500-	1,900
St. Louis	1,200-	2,000	1,200-	2,000
Retail (per gm.)				
National Average	\$ 60-	120	\$ 60-	100
San Francisco	80-	100	80-	100
Newark	60-	90	60-	90
Philadelphia		100	75-	100
Phoenix	70-	90	70-	90
St. Louis	60-	100	60-	100

Phenmetrazine (Preludin)

Wholesale (per 25 mg. d.u.) (5,000 d.u.)	1983		1984	
National Average	\$ 2.00-	4.00	\$ 2.00-	4.00
Washington, D.C.	2.00-	4.00	2.00-	4.00
New York City	2.00-	3.00	2.00-	3.25
Chicago	2.00-	5.00	2.00-	5.00
Retail (per d.u.)				
National Average	\$ 15-	20	\$ 15-	22
Washington, D.C.	10-	15	8-	15
New York City	10-	15	10-	17
Chicago		25		25

Hallucinogens

LSD

Wholesale (per 20 mcg. d.u.)	1983		1984	
National Average (1,000 d.u.)	\$	1.50	\$	1.50
New York City (1,000 d.u.)	1.00-	1.50	1.00-	200
San Francisco (50-100,000 d.u.)		.35		.35
Phoenix (10,000 d.u.)		.90		.90
Retail				
National Average (20 mcg.)	\$ 3.00-	5.00	\$ 2.00-	5.00

LSD (Cont'd.)

Retail	1983		1984	
New York City (20 mcg.)	\$ 2.00-	5.00	3.00-	5.00
San Francisco (40-60 mcg.)	3.00-	5.00	2.50-	3.50
Phoenix (20 mcg.)	3.00-	5.00	3.00-	5.00

PCP

Wholesale (per oz.)	1983		1984	
National Average	\$ 900-	1,200	\$ 1,200	
Chicago	650-	1,200	975-	1,100
Washington, D.C.		200		200
New York City		1,500		1,500
Phoenix	1,200-	1,500	1,200-	1,500

Retail

National Average (100 mg.)	\$ 10-	15	\$ 10-	15
Chicago (<i>'Sherman'</i>) (100 mg.) (gm.)		30 10 70	15-	30 10 70
Washington, D.C. (gm.)	10-	15	10-	15
New York City (100 mg.)	10-	15		10
Phoenix (100 mg.)	15-	20	15-	20

Depressants

Counterfeit Quaaludes**

Wholesale (per 300 mg. d.u.)	1983		1984	
National Average (5,000 d.u.)	\$ 1.00-	2.00	\$ 1.75-	2.50
New Orleans (5,000 d.u.)	1.70-	2.00	1.70-	1.90
New York City (10,000 d.u.)		.90		1.00

* Cigarette dipped in liquid PCP

** Includes some pharmaceutical Quaaludes with methaqualone, but most are counterfeits containing diazepam.

Counterfeit Quaaludes (Cont'd.)**Wholesale**
(per 300 mg. d.u.)**1983****1984**

San Diego	\$	1.40	\$	1.40-	1.50
(5,000 d.u.)		1.10		1.10-	1.30
(10,000 d.u.)					
St. Louis		1.00		1.00-	1.25
(5,000 d.u.)					

Retail
(per d.u.)

National Average	\$	6.00-	10.00	\$	4.00-	15.00
New Orleans		5.00-	10.00			4.00
New York City			15.00		10.00-	15.00
San Diego		5.00-	10.00		7.00-	15.00
St. Louis		6.00-	10.00		6.00-	10.00
Chicago					5.00-	10.00
Philadelphia					3.00-	20.00

Diazepam (Valium)**Wholesale**
(per 5-10 mg. d.u.)**1983****1984**

National Average	\$.50-	1.00	\$.50-	.75
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Retail
(per d.u.)

National Average	\$	1.50-	2.00	\$	1.00-	2.00
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Illicit Analgesics**Retail**

Codeine Sets (e.g., Empirin No. 4 with codeine and glutethimide) (Doriden) (60 mg. d.u.)	\$	6.00-	12.00	\$	7.00-	14.00
Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) (4 mg. d.u.)		35.00-	60.00		30.00-	50.00
Pentazocine (Talwin) (50 mg. d.u.)			11.00			11.00
Pentazocine and Tripelennamine (Pyribenzamine) (50 mg. d.u.)			15.00			15.00
Oxycodone (Percodan) (10 mg. d.u.)		3.00-	3.50		2.00-	3.50

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